



# Town of *Westford* Massachusetts

## Town Manager's Newsletter

December 2019



**Jodi Ross,  
Town  
Manager**

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[www.westfordma.gov/tm](http://www.westfordma.gov/tm)

**Important:**  
Please sign up to  
receive updates on the  
latest road construction  
in town.

[Subscribe to  
Notifications](#)



**Sign up for Westford's  
new Emergency  
Notification service—  
Smart 911**



**Dog Licensing Began  
December 1  
See Page 9**

**Westford Food Pantry  
Items can be dropped off  
Cameron Senior Center  
Mon-Fri 9AM to 4PM**



Watch  
Meetings Online  
**westford**   
community access television  
[www.westfordcat.org](http://www.westfordcat.org)

### Dear Westford residents,

I will be presenting the Fiscal Year 2021 budget message to the Board of Selectmen, School Committee, and Finance Committee at the Selectmen's meeting at approximately 8:20 p.m. on December 17<sup>th</sup> at the Blanchard Middle School Auditorium, located at 14 West Street. To find out more information about our town's budget, you may visit this link: [Fiscal Year 2020 Budget Information](#). If you are not able to attend the meeting you may watch the presentation on WestfordCAT at the following link: [Presentation of the Fiscal Year 2021 Budget Message](#).

The board will consider approval of the 2020 Annual Town Meeting timeline and will open the Town Meeting Warrant for next year's Annual Town Meeting scheduled on March 28<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

At the Board of Selectmen meeting on November 26<sup>th</sup>, a public hearing was held to examine complaints received regarding a potentially nuisance/dangerous dog located at 9 Dana Drive and consider enforcement action in accordance with M.G.L. c. 140 § 157. The board voted to effective immediately require the dog's owner to: 1) keep the dog Hazel leashed at all times when legally required (town bylaw), 2) whenever the dog is required to be legally leashed, she must also wear a basket muzzle, and 3) the dog Hazel must be walked by an adult capable of safely controlling the animal. All parties agreed to enter into a mutual written agreement with the listed requirements.

On November 26<sup>th</sup>, the board approved the 2020 Board of Selectmen/Town Manager Goals as amended. You may click the following link to view the 2020 goals: [Fiscal Year 2020 Board of Selectmen/Town Manager Goals](#).



On Wednesday, December 11<sup>th</sup>, the Board of Selectmen, Assistant Town Manager Eric Heideman, Town Clerk Patty Dubey, Project/Procurement Specialist Samantha Gray and I served breakfast to our seniors at the Cameron Senior Center. We prepared scrambled eggs, blueberry pancakes, sausages, home fries, English muffins, bagels, pastries, and assorted fruit which we shared with our neighbors and friends at the Senior Center.

(Continued on next page)

[WWW.WESTFORDMA.GOV](http://WWW.WESTFORDMA.GOV)

Our police department recently met with all houses of worship in town to assist with their security procedures. Selectman Hazelton thanked our officers at the board's November 26<sup>th</sup> meeting. I also received many thanks you notes from parishioners at those facilities.

Please sign up for the Rave/Smart 911 Emergency Notifications, as our town changed vendors a couple of months ago. This is a community messaging system used to inform residents of emergency and non-emergency but timely information through an automated telephone system. You may register to receive emails, phone calls, and/or text messages, to be notified if there is emergency information, or if there is a trash/recycling collection delay, and more. For additional information and to register you may click this link: [Rave/Smart 911 Emergency Notifications](#).

I would also like to remind town residents and visitors of the Winter Parking Ban in accordance with c. 199 §23 of the Westford Town Code, there is no on-street parking longer than 1 hour between 1:00 a.m. and 8:00 a.m. from November 1<sup>st</sup> to April 1<sup>st</sup>. There should be no on-street parking of any kind during a snow storm or following a storm while cleanup is taking place. The Highway Department's snow plow drivers greatly appreciate your cooperation.

Town staff are in the holiday spirit and many have decorated their department doors throughout Town Hall and other remote locations. Please stop by our departments and enjoy the festive displays.

The selectmen and I thanked Barbara Theriault for 18 years of service to Westford as a member of the Recycling Commission. Barbara has been an important and avid member of the Commission and we are grateful for her years of service.

Thank you to former Westford resident Frank Winters for his generous donation of beautifully framed photographs he took throughout Westford to be displayed at the Town Hall. These remarkable stunning photos feature Westford locations such as Grassy Pond, the Stone Arch Bridge, Stony Brook, the Graniteville Quarry and other sites. We are so appreciative of these gifts.

Please join us in welcoming our new Highway Department Heavy Equipment Operator, Erik Carratu!

There are several openings on our local boards and committees, including: 12 North Main Street Task Force, Affordable Housing Committee, Agricultural Commission, Communications Advisory Committee, Conservation Commission, Cultural Council, Election Officer, Energy Committee, Fence Viewer, Healthy Westford Committee, Historical Commission, Northern Middlesex Council of Government, Parkerville Schoolhouse Committee, Parks, Grounds and Recreation Commission, Pedestrian Safety Committee, Permanent Town Building Committee, Recycling Commission, and Zoning Board of Appeals. I urge you to peruse our website for information about the work of these committees; and if you have interest, please complete a Citizen's Activity form at this link: [Citizen Activity Form](#).

Would you like more detailed information on Board of Selectmen meetings? Click the following links to access: [Board of Selectmen Documents](#) & [Board of Selectmen Meeting Videos](#).

I wish you all a very peaceful, joyful holiday season.

Sincerely,



Jodi Ross  
Town Manager

## December at the J.V. Fletcher Library

Our programs are generously funded by the Friends of the J.V. Fletcher Library, Inc.

**Festival of the Trees:** Please stop by the Westford Regency and cast a vote for the Library's amazing "Alice in Wonderland" tree as your pick for favorite tree! Our very talented, Ms. Nancy, worked very hard to bring the story of Alice to life!

**Holiday Hours:** The Library will be open on Tuesday, Dec. 24 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. We will be closed on Wednesday, Dec. 25 and will reopen at 10 a.m. on Thursday, Dec. 26. The Library will be open from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 31. We will be closed on Wednesday, Jan. 1 and will reopen on Thursday, Jan. 2 at 10:00 a.m.

**Monday Mystery Book Club: Mon., Dec. 16 (note date change!) at 10:30 a.m.** Wake up your week with a stimulating book discussion! We meet on the fourth Monday morning of the month @ 10:30 a.m. in the Mary Atwood Room. Our Dec. selection is *The Twelve Clues of Christmas* by Rhys Bowen. Copies are available at Main Desk. New members always welcome! This meeting is also our title-picking party! Bring your book ideas for 2020.

**Make & Take Mondays: Dec. 16 – Star Wars Magnets.** Imagine, create, and participate! Each Monday from 3:30 pm to 4:30 pm Teens and Tweens can participate in a variety of hands-on activities that include making fun, seasonal crafts and exploring STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Mathematics) activities. This is a FREE drop - in event for Teens and Tweens in Grades 5 to 12, registration is NOT required.

**Holiday Sing Along with Steve Blunt, Wed., Dec. 18 at 10:30 a.m.** Celebrate the season with musician Steve Blunt – we'll be ringing jingle bells, dancing, and singing along. Tickets (\$2.00) for children and adults are available in person starting Monday, December 2. This program is for all ages.

**Winter Solstice Drop-in Craft: Sat., Dec. 21 from 11:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.** The Winter Solstice is Miss Nancy's favorite day of the year. It is considered the start of winter, but she thinks since the days are getting longer; it is all downhill to SPRING! Depending on your point of view, you can either make a beaded pipe cleaner snowflake or sun to celebrate. This free drop-in program takes place in the Children's room.

**Knitting Group: Mon., Dec. 23 at 6:30 p.m.** Do you enjoy knitting? Our informal knitting group meets in the Mary Atwood Room on the second Monday of every month from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. AND the fourth Monday of every month from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. This is a drop-in program that is open to all ages. Bring your latest project and share advice and socialize with other knitters! If you have any questions, please call Sarah Regan at 978-399-2309.

**5th Annual 9-Hole Mini Golf in the Library: Mon., Dec. 30 from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.** And the tradition continues ... a nine hole (and a bonus hole) mini-golf course all over the library. Here is something to do with the whole family during the holiday break. This free drop-in program is generously funded by the KDK Memorial Foundation (in honor of Kurt Kelly).

**Preschool New Year's Eve Party: Tues., Dec. 31 from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.** The Youth Services librarians cannot possibly stay up until midnight so drop-in for a fun filled New Year's party with kid friendly crafts, singing, dancing, and a celebratory countdown to noon with noisemakers and confetti! Free drop-in for children 5 and under with their caregivers.

**Sunday Hours:** Resume on Sunday, Jan. 5, 2020 thru Sun., April 26. On Sundays the Library is open from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m.

**Save the Date! Children's Story Time and Book Club Online Registration: Mon., Jan. 13 at 6:30 p.m.** Although you can always stop by and register in person, online registration for these popular programs starts Monday, Jan 13 at 6:30 p.m. On Tues., Jan. 14 at 10:00 a.m. you are welcome to register by telephone (978-399-2302). Book clubs are open to Westford residents and non-resident Family level members of the Friends of the J.V. Fletcher Library.





## **Cameron Senior Center**

### *Cameron Happenings:*

*The Cameron invites all residents age 55 + to join us at 20 Pleasant Street M, W, and F from 8-4PM and Tuesday and Thursdays from 8AM-8PM.*

*To learn more about our daily offerings visit our website at [westfordma.gov/coa](http://westfordma.gov/coa)*

### **Thank to those who made our recent breakfast a success (photo on front page)**

Although, the snow may have deterred a few older adults from making this year's traditional Board of Selectmen and Town Manager breakfast many Cameron participants enjoyed a festive and favorable breakfast made at the hands of our Board of Selectmen, Town Manager and her department staff. The breakfast menu included blueberry pancake, scrambled eggs, sausage, hash browns, fruit cups and an assortment of breads and pastries. It was a delightful way to start the day and we appreciate this time together. A special thanks to our financial sponsors: **Friends of the Cameron Senior Center and Cummings Foundation.**



### **THE ART of BASKET WEAVING – Jan. 24<sup>th</sup>, 11:00 – 2:00 pm**

You are invited to this indigenous basket weaving workshop. Watch and learn the delicate techniques of weaving hand-crafted baskets. You will work with varied materials and learn the history of this fine art. All materials are supplied for this three-hour workshop. If the program is well received, we may continue it into a weekly series of classes to have more time to complete projects. The cost is \$15 for Westford residents and \$35. for non-residents. Remember you can use your Cameron Bucks for this class. Sign up by Fri. Jan. 17<sup>th</sup> at 978-692-5523. Feel free to bring a bag lunch and drinks will be provided.

### **PICTIONARY NIGHT – Tues. Jan. 28<sup>th</sup>, 5:30-7:30**

Be sure to save the date for a fun night. Teams will attempt to guess the word that is being drawn. You don't need to be a great artist to play; all you need is a little "creative drawing" skills! \$3.00 per person for light refreshments, prizes and a night of laughs! Sign up at 978-692-5523.

### **Aqua Aerobic at Westfit**

**Instructor:** Diane Grey

Diane is a certified Water Aerobics Instructor through "United States Water Fitness Association". She has been teaching aerobics classes for over 8 years and enjoys every second of her classes! She is also certified in CPR/AED.

Our Aqua Aerobics class is an hour-long high-energy class with a community feel to the group. The class will start with 5 minutes of warm-up and stretching. Then you will go into 20 -25 min aerobic portion to get the heart rate up. Students will use bar bells for an arm workout by using the resistance of the water to build muscle and tone the arms. The class can be modified for anyone with hand/wrist/shoulder problems. Buoyancy belts and noodles are available for going to the deep end of the pool to work on range of motion. People who are uncomfortable in deep water, can stay in the shallow section if desired. The class finishes with 8-10 minutes of stretching and cool down exercises. Hot tub is available to enjoy after class as well as shower facilities.

**To view the complete Council On Aging Newsletter please visit our website:**

**[www.westfordma.gov/coa](http://www.westfordma.gov/coa) and click on [Newsletters](#).**

## Cameron Senior Center (continued)

### JOIN US FOR OUR JANUARY THRIVE7

LEARN HOW TO LOSE UNWANTED WEIGHT \* CONTROL CRAVINGS \* LEARN THE BENEFITS OF AN ANTI-INFLAMMATORY DIET \* LEARN HOW TO PREVENT AND EVEN REVERSE CHRONIC DISEASE NATURALLY \* IMPROVE SLEEP \* GAIN MORE ENERGY \* REDUCE JOINT PAIN AND SO MUCH MORE! "Thrive taught me how sugar was slowing me down and unhealthy habits were draining my energy and threatening my health by causing inflammation. While we focused on food choices and lifestyle habits, this was not a diet, but an approach to eating and exercising that, with a little effort, could easily be integrated into my daily routine."

This 7-week class will be taught by Suanne Duato, Nutritionist, Personal Trainer and Westford resident and founder of THRIVE Health and Wellness. Cost- \$50.



**THRIVE**  
HEALTH & WELLNESS



### Did You Know that the next National Census is happening in 2020?

Once a decade, America comes together to count every resident in the United States, creating national awareness of the importance of the census and its valuable statistics. The decennial census was first taken in 1790, as mandated by the Constitution. It counts our population and households, providing the basis for reapportioning congressional seats, redistricting, and distributing more than \$675 billion in federal funds annually to support states, counties and communities' vital programs — impacting housing, education, transportation, employment, health care and public policy. **We will be hosting online help with completing your census on Friday, March 13<sup>th</sup> from 10-2 and on April 14<sup>th</sup> from 4-7 pm.** Any questions feel free to call Annette at 978-399-2326.

To view the complete Council On Aging Newsletter please visit our website:

[www.westfordma.gov/coa](http://www.westfordma.gov/coa)  
and click on [Newsletters](#).



Westford Senior Center

## **Recycling Commission**

### **HOLIDAY RECYCLING REMINDERS**

Massachusetts state environmental regulations ban recyclables from the trash. Holiday season activities generate a large amount of recyclable material. The Westford Recycling Commission asks residents to recycle all they can. Recycling saves Westford money by keeping recyclables out of the trash which costs \$70 per ton.

Recycle your cardboard gift boxes, garment boxes, toy and game packing cardboard, clean food boxes, beverage cartons, and shipping boxes. All cardboard must be flattened and no larger than 3 feet by 3 feet in size.

Recycle your gift wrap paper (no foils), tissue paper, and paper tags, bags, cards, decorations, and envelopes. Recycle your newspapers, ads, magazines, and catalogs.

Recycle your clean clear and colored bottles, jars, aluminum and steel cans, clean aluminum foil, and plastic containers marked #1- #5, and #7. Styrofoam #6 is not recyclable at curbside.

On your recycling day, put recyclables in bins, boxes, or totes at the curb by 7 a.m. and separate them from your trash containers. All recyclables can be mixed together.

"Recyclables" stickers to affix to receptacles are available at the Town Clerk's office.

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### **Alerts from the Westford Recycling Commission**

**PLASTIC BAGS**, empty or filled, are NOT acceptable in recycling bins and totes.

**TANGLERS** - Cords, coat hangers, light strings, plastic 6-pack rings, garden hoses, wires, strings, ribbons, and chains - are prohibited from recycling bins and totes.

**CAPS and LIDS** – Replace caps and lids on clean bottles, jars, and cans or toss lids in the trash. Do not discard them separately in recycling.

**PLASTIC YOGURT CUPS** – Toss cups in recycle bin. Put aluminum lids in the trash.

**BLACK PLASTIC TAKE-OUT CONTAINERS** - Put this item in your trash. Clear plastic lids can be rinsed and recycled.

Please visit [www.westfordma.gov/recycling](http://www.westfordma.gov/recycling) for your recycling and trash questions.

**Reduce! Reuse! Repurpose! Recycle!**





## Health Department



## Top 10 Holiday Safety Tips



- 1. Inspect electrical decorations for damage before use.**  
Cracked or damaged sockets, loose or bare wires, and loose connections may cause a serious shock or start a fire.
- 2. Do not overload electrical outlets.**  
Overloaded electrical outlets and faulty wires are a common cause of holiday fires. Avoid overloading outlets and plug only one high-wattage appliance into each outlet at a time.
- 3. Never connect more than three strings of incandescent lights.**  
More than three strands may not only blow a fuse, but can also cause a fire.
- 4. Keep tree fresh by watering daily.**  
Dry trees are a serious fire hazard.
- 5. Use battery-operated candles.**  
Candles start almost half of home decoration fires (NFPA).
- 6. Keep combustibles at least three feet from heat sources.**  
A heat source that was too close to the decoration was a factor in half of home fires that began with decorations. (NFPA).
- 7. Protect cords from damage.**  
To avoid shock or fire hazards, cords should never be pinched by furniture, forced into small spaces such as doors or windows, placed under rugs, located near heat sources, or attached by nails or staples.
- 8. Check decorations for certification label.**  
Decorations not bearing a label from an Independent testing laboratory such as Underwriters Laboratories (UL), Canadian Standards Association (CSA) or Intertek (ETL) have not been tested for safety and could be hazardous.
- 9. Stay in the kitchen when something is cooking.**  
Unattended cooking equipment is the leading cause of home cooking fires (NFPA).
- 10. Turn off, unplug, and extinguish all decorations when going to sleep or leaving the house.**  
Unattended candles are the cause of one in five home candle fires. Half of home fire deaths occur between the hours of 11:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. (NFPA)



## National Wreaths Across America Day December 14, 2019

This December on National Wreaths Across America Day, almost 1,200 wreaths were placed on veteran's graves in Westford's seven cemeteries. Wreaths were delivered, unloaded, and placed by volunteers. A ceremony was also held at Pine Grove Cemetery to honor our Veterans.





Town Clerk's Corner

# **2020 DOG LICENSING**

**BEGINS DECEMBER 1, 2019**

**Fees: \$15.00 for Spayed/Neutered Dogs**

**\$20.00 for Non-altered Dogs**

**(Need current rabies certificate)**

***RESIDENTS AGE 70 AND OVER DO NOT HAVE TO PAY TO LICENSE YOUR DOG,  
HOWEVER, THE LATE FEE STILL APPLIES!***

**THE GRACE PERIOD FOR LICENSING YOUR DOG ENDS ON MARCH 31, 2020**

**A LATE FEE OF \$25.00 PER FAMILY WILL APPLY BEGINNING APRIL 1, 2020**



**QUESTIONS: CALL THE TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE  
978-692-5515**